

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	EAS.900
Historic Name:	Society of Colonial Wars First Encounter Memorial
Common Name:	
Address:	2500 State Hwy
City/Town:	Eastham
Village/Neighborhood:	Eastham Center
Local No:	903
Year Constructed:	
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	
Use(s):	Military Other
Significance:	Ethnic Heritage; Military
Area(s):	EAS.B: Eastham Center Historic District
Designation(s):	Nat'l Register District (5/12/1999)
Building Materials(s):	



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

This file was accessed on:

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FORM C - OBJECT

NAD 83
5/12/99

EAB.900

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Assessor's
Number

15/061

USGS Quad

Orleans

Area(s)

B

Form Number

900

Town

Eastham

Place (neighborhood or village)

Eastham Center

Address or Location 2500 State Highway

Society of Colonial Wars
First Encounter Memorial

Ownership: ☒ Public ☐ Private

Material of Object (check one)

Statue ☐ monument
Boundary marker ☐ milestone
Group composition ☐ marker
Religious shrine ☐ bust
Other (specify) Memorial

Year of Construction 1920

Plaque

Designer/Sculptor

Material(s) Granite and Bronze

Alterations (with dates)

Condition Good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage Located on the 2.2 acre lot of
Eastham Town Hall.

Setting Located in front of Eastham Town
Hall north of the main entry.

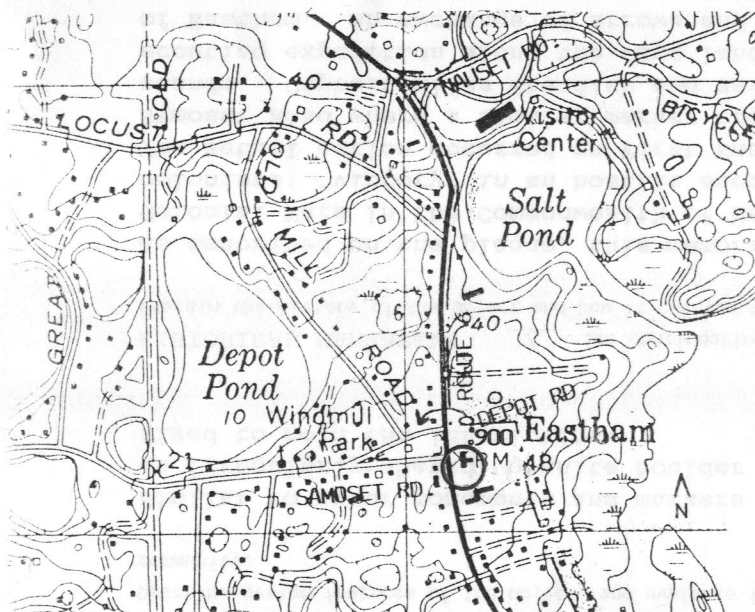
Recorded by: Dianne L. Siergiej

Organization: Commonwealth Collaborative

Date: August 1995



here. Indicate North.



RECEIVED

SEP 20 1995

MASS. HIST. COMM.

OBJECT FORM

Society of Colonial Wars First Encounter Memorial

VISUAL/DESIGN ASSESSMENT ☒ See continuation sheet.

Describe design features of the object, and evaluate in terms of other similar types of objects within the community.

Similar to other monuments and markers in Eastham, this memorial consists of an irregularly-shaped, granite boulder upon which a bronze plaque has been fixed to hold the inscription.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☒ See continuation sheet.

Explain the history of the object and how it relates the development of the community.

As described on the plaque, this memorial was placed in 1920 by the Society of Colonial Wars in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to commemorate the colonists' "victory" in an hostile encounter with natives on December 6, 1620. The actual action occurred on First Encounter Beach located at the end of Samoset Road where a similar marker erected by the Tercentenary Commission stands. Captain Miles Standish and several men from the Mayflower on a scouting expedition along the Cape landed on the bay shore of the present Town of Eastham. An exchange of arrows and musket fire occurred without injury to either side. Eighteen arrows were collected from the site by the colonists and sent to England when the Mayflower returned in 1621.

ENTIRE INSCRIPTION (if applicable):

ONE MILE WEST OF THIS SITE
HOSTILE INDIANS HAD THEIR

FIRST ENCOUNTER

6 DECEMBER 1620
(OLD STYLE)

WITH MILES STANDISH, JOHN CARVER
WILLIAM BRADFORD, EDWARD WINSLOW
JOHN TILLEY, EDWARD TILLEY, JOHN
HOWLAND, RICHARD WARREN, STEPHEN
HOPKINS, EDWARD DOTEY, JOHN ALLERTON,
THOMAS ENGLISH, MASTER MATE CLARK,
MASTER GUNNER COPIN AND THREE
SAILORS OF THE MAYFLOWER COMPANY.

THIS TABLET IS PLACED IN 1920 BY THE
SOCIETY OF COLONIAL WARS IN THE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☒ See continuation sheet.

____ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places;
If checked, see attached National Register Criteria Statement form.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Eastham
Society of Colonial Wars First Encounter Memorial

Area Form No. 900

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (continued)

Although the incident is commemorated as the First Encounter, there had been extensive communication between previous explorers and the natives. Both Samuel de Champlain and Bartholomew Gosnold explored the Cape and had contact with the Nauset Indians. In fact, it has been suggested that the 1614 visit by English explorer, Captain Thomas Hunt, who kidnapped Indians including seven from the Nauset tribe intending to sell them as slaves had engendered the hostility among the natives which resulted in the action.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Lowe, Alice Alberta, Nauset on Cape Cod: A History of Eastham, (Falmouth: Eastham Historical Society, 1968), p. 63.

Trayser, Donald Grant, Eastham, Massachusetts, 1651-1951: Eastham's Three Centuries. (Eastham, 1951), p. 8.



FORM C - MONUMENTS
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

STATUE MONUMENT X
BUST FOUNTAIN
MARKER MILESTONE
RELIGIOUS SHRINE BOUNDARY MARKER
GROUP COMPOSITION

Town Eastham
Street Samoset Road
Name First Encounter Monument
Original Owner Town of Eastham
Present Owner Town of Eastham

Monument has historical connection with the following themes: (See also reverse side)

Date Constructed 1920
Date Dedicated 1920

Agriculture	Commerce/Industry	Source of Date plaque John F. Paramino Designer or Sculptor Boston, MA Individual or group responsible for monument if other than owner Provincetown Tercentenary Commission
Architecture	Science/Invention	
Art/Sculpture	Travel/Communication	
Education	Military Affairs X	
Literature	Indians X	
Music	Development of Town/City X	
Government	Religion/Philosophy	

CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved* Altered No.
IMPORTANCE of monument to area: Great Moderate None
MONUMENT endangered by: Weather

LOCATION OF INSCRIPTION: Plaque on wall, house, post; base of monument; other
Plaque on rock.

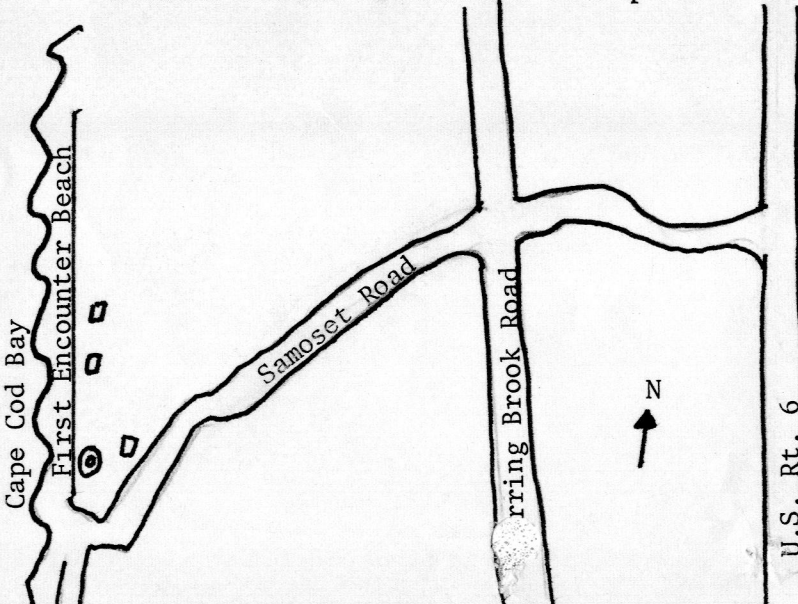
ENTIRE INSCRIPTION on monument: ON THIS SPOT HOSTILE INDIANS HAD THEIR FIRST ENCOUNTER
DECEMBER 8 1620 OLD STYLE WITH MYLES STANDISH, JOHN CARVER, WILLIAM BRADFORD,
JOHN TILLEY, EDWARD WINSLOW, JOHN HOWLAND, EDWARD TILLEY, RICHARD WARREN, STEPHEN HOPKINS,
EDWARD DOTEY, JOHN ALLERTON, THOMAS ENGLISH, MASTER MATE CLARK, MASTER GUNNER COPPIN
AND THREE SAILORS OF THE MAYFLOWER COMPANY PROVINCETOWN TECENTENARY COMMISSION 1620 1920

DESCRIPTION**

Foundation: Pedestal Base None Material
Material: Bronze Stone Marble Granite Wood Other
Setting (surroundings) On sand dune among beach grass on asphalt pathway.
Size (approximate) 4' x 4.5'

Indicate location of monument on map below

Recorder Jack Clarke
For Eastham Historical Commission
(Name of Organization)
Photo _____ Date Received _____



* If the monument has been moved, indicate the original location on the reverse side.
** Describe the monument on the reverse side.

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT MATTER AND/OR DESIGN OF MONUMENT

This is a bronze plaque set into an upright stone which is firmly implanted in the ground facing south/southeast. There is scroll-like work on the top of the plaque in the middle of which is the helmeted figure of Captain Myles Standish.

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF MONUMENT. (Refer to the theme circled on front of form. What happened? Who was important? Comment)

This area was named First Encounter by the Pilgrims in December of 1620. While anchored in Provincetown Harbor, before going on to Plymouth, the above named persons set out along the Bay coast in a shallop to discover a suitable settlement site. In 1614, a Thomas Hunt of the Captain John Smith expedition, kidnapped seven Nauset Indians from the area and sold them as slaves in Spain. Thus, when the next white men - the Pilgrims - appeared, the Nausets were "much incensed" and attacked the Englishmen on December 8, 1620 while they were at rest in a make shift lean-to.

No one was injured either in body or in spirit and the Pilgrims named the place "First Encounter." It still is known by that name and this monument commemorates the First Encounter's 300th anniversary.

REFERENCE: (Where was this information obtained? What book, records, etc.)

Information on Plaque.

Of Plimouth Plantation by William Bradford. Available at all libraries under many different publishers and interpreters.

